



Flathead Conservation District
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone: 406-752-4220 Fax: 406-752-4077
Web site: www.flatheadcd.org

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Camisha Sawtelle, Secretary/Treasurer; Dean Sirucek, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor being a quorum of the Board.

Board member not in attendance: John Ellis, Supervisor. Absence is excused.

Also in attendance were: Lori Curtis, Associate Supervisor; Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Angel Rosario, NRCS; Caitlin Overland, Flathead County Attorney's Office; Brig Klyce; Dan Chisholm; Tom Esch; Marcel Quinn; Mikel Siemens; Patrick Sullivan; Brad Bennet; Roger Noble; Kathy Olsen, DNRC; Dave Hadden.

MINUTES

Camisha Sawtelle made a motion "to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2016, business meeting and the October 11, 2016, 310-stream permit meeting as presented." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: Forestry Notes www.nacd.net
 2. Email: Whitefish Planning board meeting, October 20, 2016, 6:00 P.M., Whitefish City Council Chambers, 1005 Baker Avenue.
Contact: buildingadmin@cityofwhitefish.org
 3. Email: Water Policy Committee meeting, Wednesday, October 12, regarding state assumption of federal Section 404 permitting. Contact www.leg.mt.gov/water or jasonmohr@mt.gov, 406-444-1640,
 4. Email: Missouri River Conservation Districts Council is hosting an *Interactive Facilitation and Meeting Management workshop*, October 20, Lewistown.
Contact: mrcdc@macdnet.org, 406-454-0056.
 5. Email: McCone Conservation District newsletter *Conservation News*.
Contact: mcconecd@macdnet.org, 406-485-2744 x100
 6. Email: Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM), NRCS, and Soil and Water Conservation Society are hosting a *Soil Health Workshop*, Tuesday, October 26, Missoula. Register online at swcdmi.org
 7. Email: Phillips Conservation District fall newsletter.
Contact Jenifer.Anderson@nacdn.net, 406-654-1334 Ext 101.
 8. Email: Carter Conservation District is co-hosting the *Shelterbelt Workshop*, October 13, Ekalaka. Contact 406-775-6355 Ext 101.
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9. Email: Phillips Conservation District is co-hosting the *Livestock Water Quality/Range Monitoring Workshop*, November 2. Contact [406-654-1334](tel:406-654-1334) Ext 101.
10. Email: October 5, 2016 issue of *The Montana Conservationist*. Contact: swcdmi.org
11. Email: Lewis & Clark Conservation District newsletter *The Explorer* at www.lccd.mt.nacdnet.org or www.facebook.com/lewisandclarkcd
12. Email: Rosebud and Treasure County Conservation Districts are hosting a *Soil Health Workshop & Ag Exposition*, November 30 & December 1, Forsyth at the Rosebud/Treasure County Fair Grounds Exhibition hall. Contact Rosebud CD 406-346-7333 Ext 101 or Treasure County CD 406-342-5466 Ext. 102. Register at www.rosebudcd.com
13. Email: Cascade Conservation District October 2016 newsletter *Conservation Chronicle*. Contact [406-752-3603](tel:406-752-3603) Ext. 125, info@cascadecd.com
14. Email: Future Fisheries Improvement grant applications are due December 1. Contact: Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks mmcgree@mt.gov , 406-444-2432
15. Email: Whitefish Planning Board October 20 meeting agenda. Contact: buildingadmin@cityofwhitefish.org
16. Email: October 12, 2016 *Report to the Districts* from Jeff Tiberi, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)
17. 2017 Winter Grazing Seminar, January 17 & 18, Cotton Wood Inn, Glasgow, MT. Contact Valley Conservation District, 406-228-4321, vccdmt20@gmail.com
18. Email: Lower Musselshell Conservation District fall newsletter *LMCD Conservation News*. Contact 406-323-2103, lmcddistrict.com
19. Email: Soil Health & Cover Crop Workshops. Contact North40Ag.com
20. Email: The October issue of *The Montana Conservationist* includes articles with links regarding the 2017 Legislature, new endangered species listing rules, and water availability www.swcdmi.org
21. Email: NACD newsletter *Conservation Clip List*. Contact [nacdnnews@nacdn.net](mailto:nacdnews@nacdn.net)

FINANCIAL

The following bill had to be paid prior to the 10/24/2016 meeting:

1. Mountain States Leasing \$1545.56

The following bills were reviewed:

1. Flathead Beacon \$528.00
2. MACDEO \$75.00
3. NACD \$750.00
4. Byte Savvy \$90.00
5. CenturyLink \$262.69
6. MACD \$240.00
7. Mountain Trader \$173.70
8. Ryan Jollymore \$805.00
9. VISA \$361.83

Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



PUBLIC COMMENT: No one was present to comment on items not on the agenda.

WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN: Jed Fisher, Flathead County Weed Department, thanked the board for their past support through funding for weed management for small landowners, low income, and back pack sprayers. Jed stated that the current weed management plan has been in place since 1991. Last year Flathead County was sued when they, in contract work for Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT), sprayed a right-of-way. A farmer plowed into the right-of-way and spread the chemical into private land, which affected the crop. County spraying was discontinued, and the County Commissioners now want an Environmental Assessment done for all of Flathead County at a cost of approximately \$100,000. As the Weed Department budget only has \$20,000 for this, letters have been sent to agencies and partners asking them to consider donating funds to do a rewrite of the Flathead County weed management plan. The County would hire a company to write the plan, and Commissioner Krueger wants it to be completed by next spring. Discussion held.

310:

DNRC, FL2016052, unnamed stream, culvert: An on-site inspection was set for Thursday, October 27, 10:00 A.M. at the site.

FRAZAR, FL2016040C, Cow Creek, complaint: Discussion held. Camisha Sawtelle made a motion “to send the landowner a letter stating they are in violation and must submit an after-the-fact application.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

HANSON, FL2015054, Sickler Creek, permit ext. request: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve a one-year permit extension.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

HOLTER, FL2016042, Flathead River, bank stabilization/dock: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the application with modifications per Dean Sirucek’s and Kenny Breidinger’s team member reports.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously. *Mark Siderius abstained from voting.*

KELLEY, FL2016043C, Ashley Creek tributary, complaint: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to table waiting additional information.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MARION, FL2016051, Sanko Creek, bridge: Discussion held. Verdell Jackson made a motion “to table and send a letter to the landowner asking if he still wants the application acted upon.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEVERENKO, FL2016047, Truman Creek, bank stabilization: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the application with modifications per Dean Sirucek’s and Kenny Breidinger’s team member reports.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



STALOWY, FL2016007C FL2016008C FL2016009C, Bear Creek, complaints: Discussion held. Ronald Buentemeier made a motion “the complaints are satisfied by the approval of FL2016050.” Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

STALOWY, FL2016050, Bear Creek, After-The-Fact (ATF) application:

Chairman Ronald Buentemeier asked if anyone in the audience had comments.

- Dan Chisolm stated he appreciates the Flathead CD efforts to assert jurisdiction as Mr. Stalowy has done significant damage. He encouraged the Board to deny the permit.
- Brig Klyce thanked the Board for their work and for asserting jurisdiction in this matter. He stated he has lived on Landmark Lane upstream of the Stalowy project since 1999, and has seen what has gone on in Bear Creek and Beaver Pond. Problems developed over time since Stalowy became owner; wildlife has been disrupted and it looks ugly. Mr. Klyce urged the Board to deny the permit and have Stalowy apply for a permit the Board can approve. He stated he wants the property to be protected and restored to what it used to be; but if the Board does approve, he encouraged them to not step back.
- Mikel Quinn said she looked at the rule that prohibits the creation of in-stream ponds and stated 3 reasons why that rule does not apply to the Stalowy project. She noted DEQ’s June 2016 letter and asked the Board to consider approving the application.
- Tom Esch stated the purpose of the project should not be for one persons’ view of aesthetics. Mr. Esch noted the *Restoration Light* documents submitted by Don Murray, which outlines ideas to restore the area. He asked the Board to deny the application and have Stalowy submit one the Board can approve.

Ronald Buentemeier read his team member report, and during discussion regarding the 20-foot set back area, clarified that the applicant is not to raise the elevation, only minor filling of the cracks is to be done.

Pete Woll made a motion “to approve the application with modifications per Ronald Buentemeier’s team member report submitted 10/24/2016.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Ronald Buentemeier made a motion “to waive the 15-day waiting period.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TOTH, FL2016048, Swift Creek, bank stabilization: Discussion held. Camisha Sawtelle made a motion “to approve the application with modifications based on the modifications the applicant provided on 10/17/2016, and with modifications in Camisha Sawtelle’s and Kenny Breidinger’s team member reports.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



USFS HH RNGR DIST/KELLY, FL2016044, Essex Creek tributary, culvert: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the application with modifications per Mark Siderius’ and Leo Rosenthal’s team member reports and per additional information submitted 9/22/2016.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WEYERHAEUSER, FL2016046, Twin Creek, remove bridge & culvert: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the application with modifications per Dean Sirucek’s and Kenny Breidinger’s team member reports. The 15-day waiting period is waived.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

HASKILL CREEK CULVERT REPLACEMENT DNRC GRANT 223-17-3491: Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve and sign the DNRC Haskill Creek Culvert Replacement grant #223-17-3491 agreement.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT: Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion to “appoint Dean Sirucek to the Flathead County Planning Board.” Camisha Sawtelle seconded.

COST-SHARE PROGRAM: Discussion held. Ronald Buentemeier made a motion “to approve the Jollymore cost-share in the amount of \$805 for weed spraying.” Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MACD RESOLUTIONS: Pete Woll asked supervisors to review the resolutions and contact him or Valerie Kurth with any comments prior to convention.

PERSONNEL: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to offer Cynthia Ingelfinger the Assistant Conservationist position.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET: The September End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to approve the September End of Month report.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



REPORTS

NRCS REPORT: Angél Rosario, NRCS, reported:

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

- Completed EQIP applications

OTHER:

- The Lost Trail Pleasant Valley project for 4 1/2 miles of road has been completed. A pre-construction meeting was held with the contractor; stream and wetland restoration will begin next year at a cost of \$1.4 million.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST REPORT: Valerie Kurth submitted the following report:

District Office and Outreach

1. September advertisements: 310-law and Watershed Restoration Plan.
2. I continue to facilitate communication among DNRC, FWP, DEQ, Don MacIntyre, Caitlin Overland, and the representatives for the landowner and the complainants in regard to the Stalowy 310.
3. Area V meeting in St. Regis on September 27th
4. Assistant Conservationist interviews on October 17th
3. Inter-agency meeting at Lost Trail Wildlife Refuge on October 19th
4. FVCC Scholarship Luncheon on October 20th

Educator Workshops

1. Project Learning Tree, Early Childhood Educators, October 1st at FVCC: I co-organized this workshop with Holly McKenzie and Francis Earler. There was a lot of interest - 27 educators attended, and a few were wait-listed. Despite the rainy weather, we were able to do several lessons outside, and we received a lot of positive feedback from the educators.
2. Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Educators' Guide, October 22nd at Flathead Lake Biological Station: Lori Curtis and I led this workshop, and Hilary Devlin, from the Flathead Lakers, assisted. We introduced the Guide and the project and led the group through six of the lessons. Eight educators attended, and the feedback was very positive.

River Steward/River to Lake Initiative: The River Steward partners held interviews for next year's Big Sky Watershed Corps River Steward position on October 11th.

Seedling Program: I have received many inquiries about the program and have processed 6 orders so far.

FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT: Dean Sirucek reported the September 28 meeting included discussion regarding Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) legislation and 501(c)(3) designation. The next meeting is November 16.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD: Dean Sirucek reported the October 12 meeting included approval of a lakeshore permit for mechanical weed harvesting, a zoning change on Ramsfield Road, and action on a preliminary plat for the industrial park on the south side of the Kalispell Airport.



SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT: Lori Curtis reported on the Community of Resource Educator's (CORE) Watershed Education Committee Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Curriculum Development project:

- I. FINANCES (See attached updated budget)
 - a. Out of the \$24,480 budget for this part of the project, we raised \$15,639.
 - b. **Total funds** needed to be raised is therefore \$8841
 - c. Of the total funds to be raised, the **Educators' Guide launch** is short \$2980
 - d. Of the total funds to be raised, the **Sourcebook reprinting** is short \$5861
 - e. All project partners—with the exception of the Flathead Lakers—have contributed time (human resources) and/or funds—to the project.
 - f. Teresa Wenum from the Flathead National Forest applied for an additional \$1500 (noted on the budget) for which she has not yet received notification. If received, this amount is planned to help pay for (or reimburse Whitefish Lake Institute for) the Educators' Guide launch.
 - g. I plan to submit a grant application to Applied Materials Foundation for the Sourcebook reprinting however the applications are not reviewed until January.
- II. EDUCATORS' GUIDE LAUNCH: The Educators' Guide launch workshop (October 21) will have taken place by the time this report is reviewed. Valerie Kurth or Lori will report on its success.

Discussion held. Mark Sideirus made a motion "to fund \$5861 for the Sourcebook re-printing." Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL: No report.

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (MACD) REPORT: Pete Woll reported convention work is in process and MACD has received the Flathead CD dues letter.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD: No report.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION (FRC): Mark Siderius reported the October 17 meeting included advertising for membership, and funding support letters for the stream gage at Foy's Bend on Flathead River.

CLARK FORK TASK FORCE: Verdell Jackson reported a teleconference will be held October 31. Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion "to have Verdell Jackson represent the Flathead CD at the Columbia River Systems Operations Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) meeting on November 1." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

- Convention Auctions
- Staff Evaluations
- Copies of the Cascade CD October 15, 2016 MACD By-Law Change Request memo were given to the Board

The next 310-meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2016, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

ADJOURNMENT: Verdell Jackson made a motion “to adjourn.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>11/14/2016</u>	<u>Ronald Buentemeier</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)

